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FOCUS

An ICO Student Publication

**1991 AOSA
INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
IN CHICAGO**

The time is now! Start planning now to attend the 1992 AOSA International Conference. The conference will be held at the Palmer House, located in downtown Chicago, January 8-11, 1992.

Remember, our academic calendars say that our winter holiday break extends until Sunday, January 12. So, if you are already planning your winter holiday vacations, plan to return early! You should also plan to save some of your summer earnings, so that you won't be broke when it's time to register for the conference.

Here's the deal on cost. If you register before the deadline (see registration brochure for exact dates), the cost is \$50. The cost of registration alone includes: free practice management and continuing education courses (many taught by ICO faculty); admission to the two day exhibit hall (at

which there will be complimentary meals and many raffle prizes); admission to "Olympic Fever", a conference-opening dinner-dance sponsored by Bausch & Lomb; admission to "Varilux Super Optometry Bowl", an exciting new academic competition between school teams for fabulous prizes and a traveling trophy (reception sponsored by Varilux to follow), and the "1993 Kickoff" (champagne reception) for next year's conference in St. Louis. Oh yeah, one more thing. Saturday's day events will all take place here at ICO. You are invited (if you are registered!) to attend the educational courses and have lunch compliments of the Illinois College of Optometry. Visiting students will get a tour of ICO and the Eye Institute. Transportation will be provided for all events outside the Palmer House, so use it, especially if you plan to do any drinking.

On top of the registration form, you may want to sign up for (and pay extra for) our SPECIAL EVENTS. The first "special event" is "Untouchable Chicago", a night out

for Connie's Pizza (all you can eat pizza buffet with salad and beverage) and then on to Buddy Guy's Legends for live blues 'til morning (beverages included). The second "special event" is "One Magnificent Masquerade", a semi-formal banquet, featuring a fabulous meal and dancing until morning. Wear a mask to this banquet. Be daring! Be colorful! Be mysterious! There will be a mask competition at the dance.

Traditionally, everybody signs up for the "special events", so you won't want to miss the boat. The cost of "special events" will be \$22 (Untouchable Chicago) and \$25 (One Magnificent Masquerade). These events ARE co-sponsored. This means two things: 1. The cost is low for you, and 2. you get way more than your money's worth. DON'T MISS THEM!!.

Many of you will want to stay at the Palmer House, rather than having to drive down town in the snow and park for an early morning seminar or late evening social event. Parking is

expensive, and a hassle. Hotel rates are very cheap for the conference. Four students can stay in a quad-occupancy room for \$78 per night. That is only \$20 per night per person (slightly higher than what parking would be). Believe me, you will want to be staying in the hotel, where all the action is taking place!

Registration brochures with all the information you will need will be arriving here at ICO by early October. LOOK FOR IT! Meanwhile, if you still need any other info, please ask me, or ask Mark Henry (AOSA Trustee).

This is a one-time opportunity for you to attend an AOSA conference in your home town. Join your ICO schoolmates in welcoming students and Optometrists from all over the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico. SEE YOU THERE!

Jay Rofsky
1992 Conference Chairman

Illinois College of Optometry Fighting Maculas?

It has been brought to my attention that we, at Illinois College of Optometry, need an identity. Iowa has their Hawkeyes, Texas Christian University has their Horned Frogs (or is it Toads?) and ICO their... their...eyeballs? NOT! So what we need is a nickname, a mascot.

That is where you, the student body (or faculty and staff for that matter) come in. All I need from

you is to come up with some suggestions for a nickname or mascot. And even school colors if you want. Your input would be appreciated.

The Focus staff will then sort through the many thousands of entries to choose the three best. From there it will be up to you by vote.

Oh yeah, did I forget to mention; first place will receive dinner for two at Connie's Pizza, second place will receive one pizza from Domino's, and third prize will receive one frozen pizza from Jewel. Entries can be put in Box 189 by October 31. Please remember to give your name and box number.

JOIN THE FUN JANUARY

This coming January, ICO students will be presented with the opportunity that very few students ever have. On January 8-11, 1992, the American Optometric Student Association will hold its 22nd annual conference at the Palmer House Hotel here in Chicago. The faculty and administration have made a commitment to our organization, and to all students, by scheduling one extra week of Christmas vacation. As students we have an obligation to do our best to participate in this convention.

Each year the annual AOSA Conference is held in a major city in the general vicinity of one of the 18 Schools and Colleges of Optometry. Student participation on the part of ICO students has historically been poor. Part of this stems from the expense of the conference, and probably, more importantly some of the reason is a result of student apathy. At ICO, every student is an automatic member of the organization that is the student equivalent to the American Optometric Association.

This year, for the first time, we have been given the complete opportunity to attend this event. Students at ICO have been working for more than two years to ensure the success of this conference. Those who have attended past conferences have recognized the invaluable experiences one can get. This year's Conference Chairman Jay Rofsky stated, "Being involved with AOSA has allowed me to meet colleagues and make friends with students, O.D.'s, and executives from all over the United States and Canada. It has allowed me to get a closer look at the organizations that make our profession what it is today, and what it will be in the future."

Not only will we have the opportunity to meet students and O.D.'s from all over North America on a social level, more importantly is the fact that the AOSA will be presenting nationally renowned speakers on the subjects of Continuing Education and Practice Management. In addition, the AOA President and Executive Council will be on hand to discuss with students on both a political and social level, the direction Optometry is heading. Finally, the students meet with representatives from over 30 Optometric Companies and organizations at the

continued on page 2

ICO NICKNAME OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

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The Iowa Myth

"Iowa bred and corn fed." "Whenever I want to update my 8-track collection I go to Iowa." "Did you hear Illinois got a new zoo? They put a fence around Iowa." What's the best thing to come out of Iowa? I-35 (or I-80, etc.)." "Bullheads-an Iowa delight."

After spending the past school year in Chicago and the summer in Minneapolis, I have decided the State of Iowa is the most maligned state in the Union. And what's more, most of the maligners have never done time, er, spent time in Iowa.

I'll have you know, Iowa is the largest pork producer in the United States... I think. O.K., so that means nothing to you Brian Abrams. How about this juicy fact; Winterset, Iowa is the home of the late Marian Morrison (John Wayne). Big deal? Johnny Carson was born in Iowa. So what? Buddy Holly and Ritchie Valens

died in a plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa (no, not Storm Lake, Sint). You want more? Des Moines was the home to former Women's Basketball League team the Iowa Cornets, get it Corn-ets. By the way, some Iowa farmers grow a little corn.

Iowa farmers also grow other crops. Every time I go to MacDonald's and bite into a Big Mac I am proud that most of the soy filler came from soy beans grown in Iowa.

The fact is, Iowa is a great place to live, practice, and raise a family. The air is clear and the roads are virtually free of potholes (yes we do have paved roads, well over 100 miles of paved roads).

I am sure I have successfully convinced most of you to pack your bags and take a trip to Iowa. Please, call ahead to make reservations, because, quite frankly, there are some of you we just don't want.

Finally, to set the record straight, I have never seen any of our cheerleaders grazing, and I have never, and will never, go cow tipping. If you don't know don't ask.

Kevin Crouch

FUN: continued from page 1

Grand Exhibit Hall. Here they will examine most of the innovations that are going to be available to us in the future.

Please do not pass up this opportunity to attend this conference, or even to participate as a volunteer. The success of this conference is both a reflection of the school, and of its students.

For further information on how to become involved or how to participate in the conference, do not hesitate to contact Jay Hofsly (Box 128), the National Conference Chairperson, or Mark Henry (Box 060), AOSA Trustee.

Mark Henry, AOSA Trustee

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The FOCUS staff welcomes any questions, comments (be nice), or input about the paper.

Any input in the form of Letters to the Editor, guest editorials, etc. would be appreciated. If you would like to write articles about pertinent issues affecting Optometry, or any subject that interests you, feel free. Just submit the

legibly written article to the FOCUS or talk to Kevin Crouch.

If you are interested in helping with the production in any way, leave a note in BOX 189 addressed to FOCUS EDITOR.

Thank you.

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JIM SCHOERTZ ON SPORTS

Hello sports fans. I will be writing a Sports Column in this paper every issue. It will be hard hitting sports journalism. Everything from Pro and College football, basketball and baseball to Pro-Beach Volleyball. Hockey will be included but only in passing.

First up is baseball. At this point the Twins hold a 2-0 advantage over the Braves. No way the Braves come back from this deficit, the Twins are just too tough at home. The last time the Twins were in the Series, 1987, they didn't win on the road, they didn't have to. They had home field advantage, like this year, and they didn't lose at home so, they walked away with the Championship. My bold prediction: Twins in six games.

We are at the midpoint of the NFL season and it looks like the Buffalo Bills are the strongest team in the League. They have play-off and Super Bowl experience and, more importantly, Jim Kelly. My head has to go with the Bills as

the mid season favorite to win the Super Bowl.

However, my sentimental favorite has to be the Kansas City Chiefs. They have one of the best defenses in the league. And what wins Championships? Defense. They have a decent offense that seems to get better every week. True, their offense will have to improve to compete with the Bills but they show improvements each week.

Now on to the really important sport: Pro Beach Volleyball. Ooh, I get chills every time I say that. Allow me a minute while I indulge myself. Pro Beach Volleyball, aaah, do you feel it? O.K. I'm back.

Recently I watched a tournament featuring four of the world's top Pro Beach Volleyball (YES!) players in a round robin format. Each player teamed with one of the other three to play the other two. They played one game to 15. Then they would switch partners and play another game to 15. After this they repeated the process one more time. At the end the player with the least amount of losses would win the title along with a prize.

The Prize for winning Pro Beach Volleyball Player of the Year was not a pair of Oakley sunglasses, not a year's supply of Copper-

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tone, not even a new Geo Storm. No way. The grand prize was 70K, 70 G's, 70 THOUSAND Dolares. The winner was Karch Kiraly (I swear that is his name). Congratulations Karch.

And to think I hated playing Volleyball in gym class because I thought it was for little girlie men. I have now changed my tune.

Pro-Beach Volleyball is now a sport to be reckoned with. It has major fan support in certain parts of the country and growing in other parts. But more importantly it has major sponsorship. Pro Beach Volleyball is here to stay.

On to Hockey. I have to do this, it's in my contract. I am not even sure the name of the hockey

league. My guess is the MIHL. The Major Indoor Hockey League. Or was that the Major Indoor Soccer League. It was one of those. Heck, I always thought a crease was something you wanted your pants to have. My prediction: The Blackhawks in seven over the Toronto Maple Leafs. (Shouldn't it be Leaves?)

That is it for now. Next time I will preview NBA Basketball, maybe take a look at Hockey and highlight this year's Jet-Ski Tournament of Champions to be shown late night on ESPN. (I hear they make big bucks).

Later.

GET INVOLVED

Don't underestimate the power of extra-curricular involvement. As students, we may find it easy to argue the importance of academics and clinical education. However, another scope of every Optometric education should involve some sort of extra-curricular activity. Many students, especially we at ICO, have found it easy to settle for the education for which we are paying tuition. What we fail to realize is that what we learn in the classroom, or in a clinical module, will not secure our eventual success as doctors. Of course, what we learn is very important, in fact it is essential, but in order to be financially stable, or to have means by which we are able to survive, the real exposure and education to how the profession works will not come until after we have been granted the Doctor of Optometry degree.

During her visit on September 20, AOA Trustee Dawn Kaufman talked about the importance of becoming involved in the AOA. She spoke of the power of our profession and how tremendous strides have been made over the last 20 years. Dr. Kaufman stated concern that too many young doctors in our profession were either willing, or felt like they were forced, to "sell their degree" to the Optometric super stores, to

give up the idea of Optometry as a Primary Health Care Profession and go for the 'fast buck'.

Being involved in an organization or in a local club or society is a way to help maintain the important idea behind what your degree will really mean. Those who participate will get exposure to many aspects of the profession that they would not otherwise have the opportunity. For example, the Contact Lens society often has speakers who talk about the newest innovations hitting the market and what to expect in the near future. The C.S.I.O.A. allows students to stay involved in the developments of what is happening in the I.O.A.

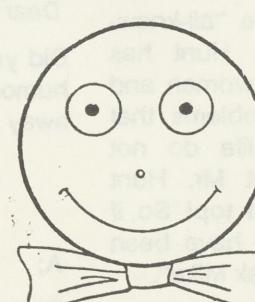
The clubs I have mentioned are only a couple of the vast number of opportunities that ICO students have to learn about real-world Optometry. Any person can find their own niche in any number of these organizations, and can learn immensely from their involvement. Never again in your professional career will you have the opportunity to participate in as many organizations, and for as little as the expense of your time or a nominal membership fee. Give yourself a chance to participate now, while you have the opportunity, and the time to do so. I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

Mark Henry

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HAPPY

HALLOWEEN

EDITORIAL

"Do your part!" "Get involved!" "Help in any way you can!" I am sure most of you have heard these words many times since coming to ICO. Even the 1st years, in the short time they have been here, have heard some of these, I am sure.

Never in your four years at ICO will these words have more meaning. Through the hard work of some of your peers, ICO is fortunate enough to host the AOSA International Convention. It is important for each student, for a couple of reasons, to experience this convention.

First, the experience you gain as an individual is immeasurable. It is an opportunity to meet students from all parts of North America.

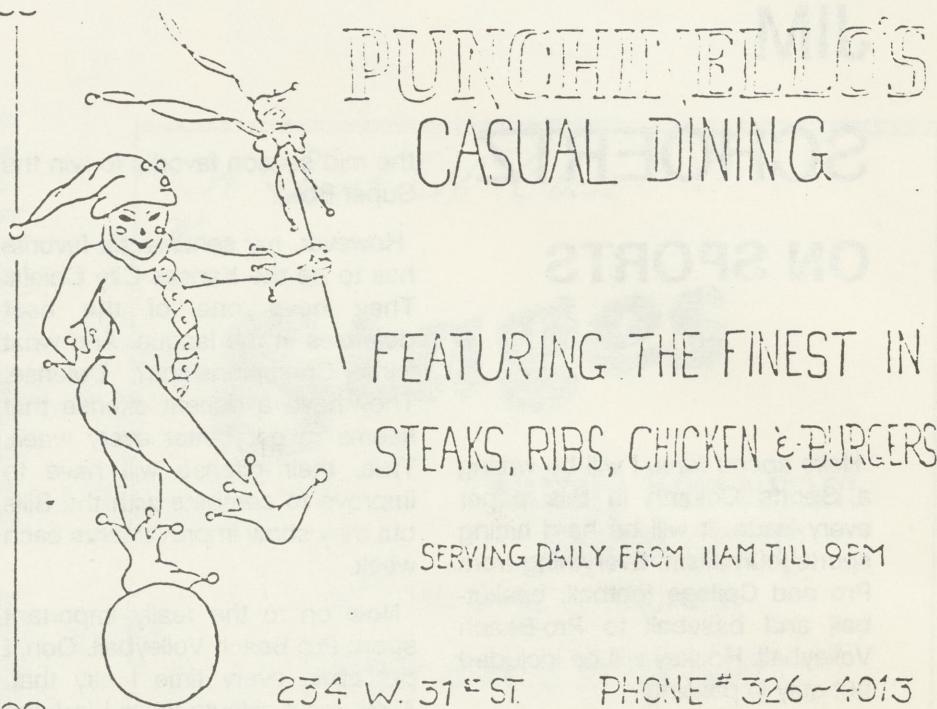
Second, by attending the conference, en masse, we help build the reputation of our school. Last year's conference host, NEWENCO, had a large majority of their students attend. This year, the administration has rescheduled classes so that we are able to attend without the pressure of having to study for quizzes. But if we don't show up it may never happen again. We need to show

the administration that the students are enthused and willing to participate.

Attending the convention should not be thought of as a chore. It is a great time. I attended the conference last year in Boston and enjoyed it so much that I will attend every year from now on. You can ask anyone who has attended a conference and they will tell you the same. The convention was more than worth the price of admission, believe me. And this year it is cheap because, if you do not have enough money to stay in a hotel, all it will cost you is the price of admission.

But "doing your part" should not start or stop with the AOSA Convention. We should "help any way we can" whenever we can. That means helping your class at Blindsights. Work the beer stand or help prepare or serve the food. Help with set-up or clean-up.

"Do your part." If you can't help in that way, at the very least attend the Blindsights, it only helps your class. You don't have to drink, soda is always served and usually burgers. Even if you help (or attend) for an hour, it



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matters. None of us are too busy not to give an hour of our time on a Friday evening. Go on Friday for your supper. The money goes in to the class fund which, at the end of four years, is used to pay for our banquet. So whatever you put in, you will get back.

Getting involved in the ways I have mentioned in no way exhausts the avenues in which to help. Other ways include Note Service, tutoring, Student Association, helping at the Alumni Convention, blood drive, Sports Vision screening, state clubs or being a T.A.

The experience you gain only helps. As Optometrists we have to be involved in our communities as

well as good communicators to be successful. I know attending a Blindsight, the AOSA Convention, or getting involved in other ways does not seem important but it builds some of the skills necessary for being a good Optometrist. Skills other than Optometric skills.

So the next time a class rep, teacher, staff doctor or club chairman asks you to help in some way, volunteer some of your time. You not only help other people this way but also yourself.

Kevin Crouch

ASK MIKE

and relax.....But check the top of the can first.

Q:

Dear Mike,

Did your parents have a sense of humor or did they decide right away not to like you?

In your boat,

Alan Rensch

A:

Dear Monkey Wrench in my boat,

My parents were quite fun loving, I can remember many happy times with Jack and Judy Mineo-Hunt. My father kept his mother's maiden name for obvious reasons.

P.S. Get out of my boat!

Q:

Dear Mike,

What is that thing above Aaron Neville's O.D. (right eye)?

Signed,

Sick

A:

Dear Confused,

You say TO MAY-TO I say TO-MAH-TO you say....well you know the rest (pool/pond....pond would be good for you). Try not to HAIR-ess/ha-RASS (whatever) me with such trivial matters! Kick back with a Coke (or was it a Pepsi)

Aliens are channeling their thoughts through Aaron. The growth is a keratinized antennae. Aaron Neville sold his body to the aliens in exchange for his singing voice plus a little action from Linda baby..(Ronstadt).

FOCUS STAFF

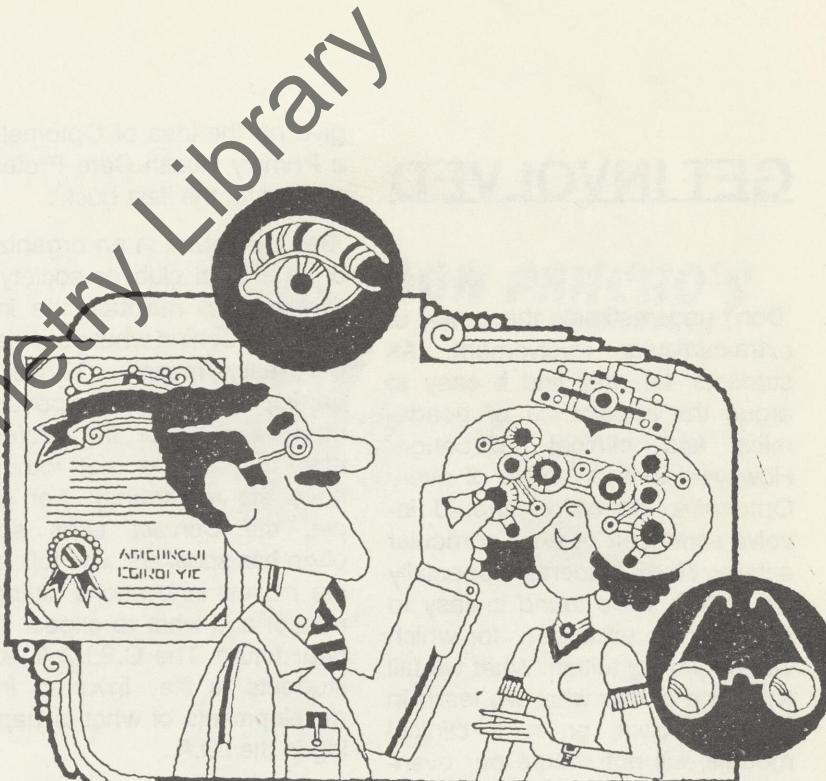
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